



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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**NEWS RELEASE**

Joseph Villante, age 47, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was charged today by information<sup>1</sup> with bank bribery, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. The information charges that from approximately January through June 2006, Villante, a vice president and relationship manager at Republic First Bank, solicited approximately \$110,000 from a bank customer as a reward for assisting the customer in obtaining two loans from the bank.

If convicted the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 30 years in prison, a fine of \$1,000,000, five years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Judy G. Smith.

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<sup>1</sup>An Indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.